

KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT No. 10
King County, Washington
January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1994

Schedule Of Findings

1. District Officials Should Follow Formal Bid Laws

Our audit revealed district officials purchased a telephone system for \$36,363 in 1994. Bids were obtained from several different contractors through a request for proposals. However, this purchase did not follow formal sealed bid procedures and district officials failed to advertise this purchase for competitive bid as required by state law. District officials incorrectly believed personally contracting and soliciting bids achieved compliance with legal requirements.

RCW 52.14.110 Purchases and public works - Competitive bids required, states in part:

A formal sealed bid procedure shall be used as standard procedure for purchases and contracts for purchases executed by the board of commissioners.

RCW 52.14.120 Purchases and public works - Competitive bidding procedures, further states in part:

(1) Notice of the call for bids shall be given by publishing the notice in the newspaper of general circulation within the district at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received.

By not following bid law procedures, district officials cannot be assured of obtaining equipment at the best possible price nor are all vendors provided equal access and opportunity to bid.

We recommend district officials establish policies for formal sealed bid procedures and the advertisement of purchases for competitive bid to ensure compliance with bid laws as required by state statute.